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Devoted to the interests of

THE MASSES.

A Fearless, Aggressive, Progressive
Advocate of All Reforms.

W. O. CHAMPE, Editor.

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W. H. AMBROSE, }

EUGENE V. DEBS.

Eugene V. Debs, president of the American Railway Union, was born in Terre Haute, Ind., in 1855, on Guy Fawkes' day. He attended his father's store in the daytime, and got his education at night. His first work was in the paint shops of the Vandalia road, from which position he arose to be a fireman on a locomotive running between Terre Haute and Vandalia. It was not until he joined the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen that he developed his ambition. He was sent as a delegate to the convention, and ultimately became editor of the Locomotive Firemen's Magazine. In 1884, he was sent to the state legislature by the Democrats. In 1893, he set to work to organize the American Railway Union. Personally, Mr. Debs is an earnest, quiet, determined, undemonstrative man.

Speaking of Mr. Debs, the Chicago Record (which cannot be said to be a very warm friend of the laboring man) says:

"The gentlemen who write so bitterly against Mr. E. V. Debs are certainly unacquainted with him. We will not believe they would wittingly misrepresent so sincere, so loyal and so kindly a man. Mr. Debs is, to our thinking, laboring in serious error just at present, but we do not question his sincerity, because we know him personally, and we know him to be a sincere, earnest, honest man. We can forgive much and overlook much—nay, we are prepared to even make concessions and sacrifices to earnest and sincere people, even though their theories and practices and methods may not be in conformity with our ideas. Debs is by no means the monster some of our contemporaries

would have you believe him to be. His nature is by no means dictatorial, and he is wholly incapable of executing or planning or suggesting or approving of violence. He believes he is right, and he believes he is doing what is to the benefit of those whose interests appeal to him for sympathy, advocacy and co-operation. People who are so wise as some of the rest of us are can surely afford to tote fair with a man of whom the worst that can truthfully be said is that he is misguided.

"George M. Pullman may be right and E. V. Debs may be wrong—seriously wrong; let us presume so; and, having granted that much, this much can be added with positiveness: If ye be ill, or poor, or starving, or oppressed, or in grief, your chances for sympathy and for succor from E. V. Debs are 100 where your chances with G. M. Pullman would be nil whittled down."



Eugene V. Debs, Pres. American Railway Union.

It is an awful fact—it is really not short of awful—that in this country (Great Britain) with all its wealth, all its vast resources, all its power, 45 per cent.—that is to say, nearly one half—of the persons who reach the age of 60 are or have been paupers. I say that it is a tremendous fact, and I cannot conceive any subject more worthy of the attention of the legislature, more worthy of the attention of us all.—John Morley.

And it is another "awful fact" that since the adoption of the British system of finance by the United States, pauperism and crime have increased at an appalling rate. Special privileges granted by legislative enactments have enabled the few favored ones to rob the English nation and make "45 per cent." of the inhabitants of the sea-girt isle paupers. Considering the length of time the robber system of finance has been in force in this nation, its effects have been much more disastrous. Twenty-five years more will make more than 45 per cent. of this people paupers or put them so low in social and financial conditions as to wrest from them a love of country, and then will come collapse. The purest patriotism will develop in defence of home. "Men will not fight for a mere boarding house."

We print the following extract from a private letter from an uncle who lives at Dublin, Ind.: "It seems that the money power and labor are engaged in a death struggle. So long as the saloon controls politics, capital will come out on top. I have frequently remarked that we are, to-day, more the vassals of Great Britain than when the tea was sunk in Boston harbor; but I am inclined to vary that and say we are the vassals of the Rothschilds' house of German bankers. If the indebtedness of the world is two hundred billion dollars, and the entire amount of gold in the world is \$3,700,000,000, and the Rothschilds' house owns \$3,000,000,000 of the whole amount, on a gold basis, how is the debt to be paid? You have studied algebra—I never did. Can you figure it out?"

We quote the following from a personal letter from Mrs. Mary E. Lease: "What a crisis is upon us! and how wonderfully God is educating the voters of this nation! It would seem as though the great work of reform is to be developed and carried on whether we take part in the movement or otherwise. It seems to me that we have reached a time when men and personalities must be lost sight of that principles may triumph. I may be wrong, but back of Cleveland and his order to the federal troops I see the controlling influence of England. I am reminded of Luther's hymn:

"We wait beneath the furnace blast
The pangs of transformation.
Not painlessly doth God recast
And mould anew the nation."

STRIKES are no help to the strikers, but, in nine cases out of ten, are a positive detriment.

SEND us a dime and get a "Keep Off the Grass" badge. It's a daisy.